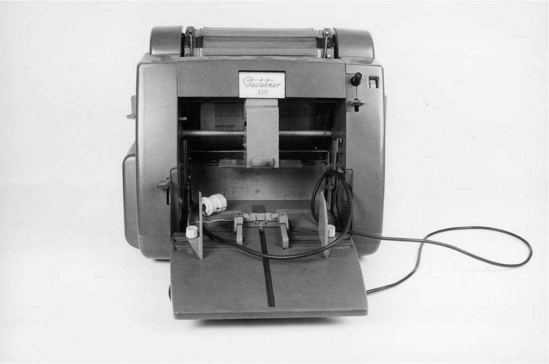
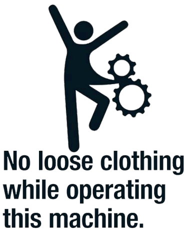
GESTETNER OPERATING AND INFORMATION

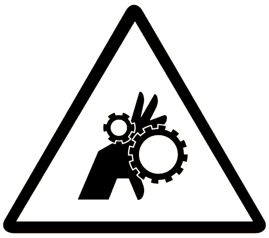


Gestetner 320 (1955)

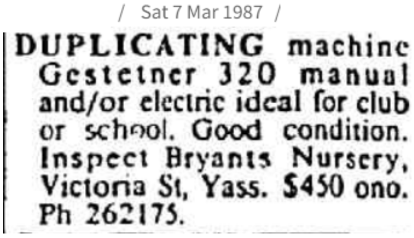
Gestetner 410 (1960)

DANGER



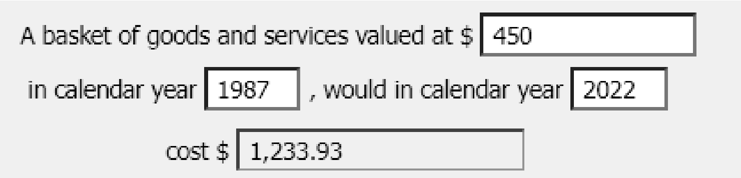


**MOVING PARTS
CAN CAUSE
SEVERE INJURY**



/ Sat 7 Mar 1987 /

DUPLICATING machine Gestetner 320 manual and/or electric ideal for club or school. Good condition. Inspect Bryants Nursery, Victoria St, Yass. $450 ono. Ph 262175.



A basket of goods and services valued at $ 450

in calendar year 1987, would in calendar year 2022

cost $ 1,233.93

Value of a 1950s era Gestetner Machine in 1987, ACT - Australia

Before Use

Before trying to use the machine and before plugging it in, you should verify that everything is operational and nothing is stuck. Check that the handle turns freely and operates the cylinders. If the handle does not freely turn, the mechanism will need re-greasing.

Ink Pump Manual Operation

The ink pump may be gummed up and may not work, but that is not a problem because you could ink it manually by squeezing the ink out of the tube directly onto the cylinder.

After Use

Do not leave an old stencil on the screen, they will cause the stencil to leave an impression on the screen when used next. If a machine has an old stencil on the screen, you will have to remove the screen and soak it in paint solvent to (carefully) remove the stencil and clean the screen.

On Stencils

Genuine Stencils for the Gestetner machine ceased production in the 1990s. However, there are a few alternatives available.

The working principle of stencils is a permeable sheet (thin paper) coated with a wax. The wax layer is destroyed allowing ink to flow through the stencil.

Risograph Master Paper, designed for a RISO Digital Duplicator will work effectively in an old gestetner machine. These Digital Duplicators are based on traditional mimeograph technology although rather than a permeable wax, they rely on a thermal printing process. Youtube user *J Fisher* in his video *Gestetner 230* shows an example of this method.
His process involves using a thermal fax machine to print onto the risograph master and is described below:

"*Documents can be scanned using a normal fax machine loaded with Risograph master paper so that the machine 'prints' onto the shiny side, but the cut stencil then has to be attached to the silk carrier of the Gestetner with the Polyethylene side facing outwards, so the image is printed in reverse. Therefore the original document to be scanned needs to be either printed as a mirror image, or made on a typewriter with a sheet of carbon behind the typing paper, placed face-up so that the rear of the document can be scanned.*

The fax machine I used was a plain paper thermal printing fax machine, with the carbon roll removed (but you have to tape up whatever mechanism it is which tells the machine that the roll is not present). The fax machine was used simply as a duplicator as if making a copy from a master document onto plain paper. The plain paper was swapped for a long (the length of the original Gestetner stencil) sheet of Riso paper which was folded and taped around a sheet of A4 paper. This set up took some experimenting with, so that the 'printed' area fell in the right place on the finished stencil with correct header length and width of stencil etc. The whole Riso/paper was passed through the fax and the image or document burned onto the film surface. This needs to be cut in reverse, or copied from a document printed in reverse, so that when the stencil is attached to the Gestetner machine, it will print the right way around.

I had great trouble in getting the thick riso stencil paper to feed through the fax machine, and had to devise a way of attaching it to a piece of plain A4 to act as a carrier which it could be detached from for use - this worked very well and produced a clean crease-free stencil."